

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

December 6th, in the Senate, Mr. Latham presented the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, praying for the establishment of a daily overland mail. The memorial provides for carrying the entire letter mail by Pony Express, and the residue of the mail to be divided between Mr. Butterfield and the daily route, to run through San Jose and Placerville. It was laid over for the present.

Mr. Powell introduced a resolution providing that so much of the President's message as related to the present agitated and distracted condition of the country, and the grievances of the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, be referred to a special Committee of Thirteen members, and that said committee be instructed to inquire whether any additional legislation than already within the sphere of federal authority and duty would be necessary for the protection and security of the property of the United States, and if so to report by bill; and that the said committee be also instructed to consider and report whether it was expedient to propose an amendment or amendments to the Constitution of the United States, so as to insure a prompt and full protection to the rights and property of the citizens of every State and Territory, and insure the equality of the States, and insure the equal rights of the citizens aforesaid under the Federal Constitution. The resolution was laid over, and the Senate adjourned till Monday, the 10th.

In the House, Mr. Morris gave notice that he would on Monday next present a resolution concerning the prosperity of the American Union.

Mr. Cobb, from the committee on public lands, reported a bill to construe the meaning of the words "minimum price of the public lands," to which some objections were made, as there were more important matters for consideration. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. Cobb wished to know from Mr. Branch what was the meaning of "minimum." Mr. John Cochrane rose to a question of order. Minimum was a Latin word, and the business of Congress is required to be conducted in the English language.

After further proceedings, the bill passed. It provides that the word "minimum" shall be construed, according to the land graduation act, so as to apply to alternate and reserved sections of land granted for railroads or other internal improvements, and in favor of actual settlers, and not to mean one dollar and a quarter, as now officially construed.

The Speaker appointed the following Special Committee, under Mr. Boteler's resolution, to consider questions connected with the perilous condition of the country.

From Ohio, Corwin (Chairman); Virginia, Milson; Massachusetts, Adams; North Carolina, Winslow; New York, Humphrey; South Carolina, Boyce; Pennsylvania, Campbell; Georgia, Love; Connecticut, Ferry; Maryland, Davis; Rhode Island, Robinson; Delaware, Whitely; New Hampshire, Tappan; New Jersey, Stratton; Kentucky, Bristow; Vermont, Merrill; Tennessee, Nelson; Indiana, Dunn; Louisiana, Taylor; Mississippi, Davis; Illinois, Kellogg; Alabama, Houston; Maine, Morse; Missouri, Phelps; Arkansas, Rust; Michigan, Howard; Florida, Hawkins; Texas, Hamilton; Wisconsin, Washburne; Iowa, Curtis; California, Burch; Minnesota, Windom; and from Oregon, Stout.

The Speaker desired to say that the parliamentary usage was to name on the committee the mover of the resolution under which the committee was ordered to be formed. He had omitted the name of Mr. Boteler at that gentleman's own request. He had endeavored to appoint the committee to the best of his judgment, and at the earliest period, in view of the important business with which the committee was intrusted.

Mr. Hawkins said: Last Tuesday I begged to be excused from voting, and for similar reasons I ask to be excused from serving on this committee. If I am compelled to serve I will be a very unimportant, not an efficient member. I know I cannot act with all the committee. As to the idea of getting up a committee with unanimity, great peace and in a Union saving manner, I have been opposed to anything of that kind in the past, and am now, believing that the time for compromise has passed forever.

Mr. Cochrane followed, and made a speech of some length, which was loudly applauded, to the annoyance of Mr. Garnet, who arose and said: I trust that, in our grave deliberations, the Chair will stop applause, whether on the floor or in the galleries. I will give notice—(here he was met with hisses from the galleries.) I now move the galleries be cleared. (Renewed hisses.) These disgraceful blackguards, who violate the rules of the House and the decorum and dignity which are due to the representatives of the people, should be forthwith expelled from the hall.

The Speaker said he had no doubt the suggestion of the gentleman from Virginia would be sufficient for a respectable auditory, and insure quiet.

Without deciding by a vote of the House whether Mr. Hawkins should or should not be excused from serving on the committee, an adjournment was taken till Monday following by a vote of 104 to 92.

December 10th, on motion of Mr. Bigler, the standing committees of last session were ordered to be continued in the House.

Mr. Latham moved that the resolution relating to the Overland Mail be referred to the committee on Post Offices and Roads.

Mr. Sumner offered a memorial from Thaddeus Hyatt, praying that relief be provided for

the sufferers in Kansas, which was referred to the committee on Territories.

The Homestead Bill passed its first reading. Mr. Powell's resolution on Federal Affairs was called up, when Mr. Powell said events were rapidly crowding upon us, which, were they not speedily suppressed, would result in a dissolution of the government. The resolution proposed legislation to give power for the correction of evils. Duty to our country requires us to act promptly. The 11th amendment to the constitution was made in 1794, and in 1803, the 12th was made. Our fathers acted in emergencies and so can we.

Mr. King inquired whether additional legislation was necessary to maintain the constitution?

Mr. Yulee inquired what was intended by "amendments?"

Mr. Green said he would vote for the resolution. An amendment to the constitution, or a legal enactment, unless popular sentiment goes with it, or the strong arm of the government goes with it, is not worth a straw. Our efforts must be to bring about public sentiment, or alternatively we must arm the federal government with physical power to enforce the constitution everywhere.

Mr. Latham said California will remain with the Union,—the great north and west,—no matter what occurs. The Pacific Railroad was the great desideratum of her people.

In the House, Mr. Hawkins gave additional reasons why he had asked to be excused from serving on the Union select committee. He regretted that the resolution for the appointment of the committee came from one of the most gifted sons of the South, and gave fair warning that Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina were certain to secede, and to be followed by Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

Mr. Sherman, from the committee on ways and means, reported a bill authorizing the issue of ten million dollars worth of Treasury notes, of a denomination of not less than one hundred dollars; the faith of the United States pledged for their redemption; the money to be borrowed from time to time as deemed expedient; which, after debate, was passed.

Mr. Morris endeavored to introduce a resolution declaratory of devotion to the Union, &c. Questions of order were raised, and it could not be done, while a motion to excuse Mr. Hawkins was pending.

Without further action thereon the House adjourned.

Dec. 11th, in the Senate, the House bill to provide for the payment of the outstanding treasury notes, and to authorize a loan, etc., was taken up after some remarks from Mr. Rice against, and Mr. Cameron in favor. Mr. Rice moved its reference to the committee on finance, which was agreed to.

The resolution relative to the portion of the President's message in reference to secession, was taken up, and Mr. Hale offered a resolution, that the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire whether the expenses of that branch of the public service cannot be reduced without detriment to safety, and that if they can be further instructed to report to what extent, and what particular branch or branches can be dispensed with or reduced. The resolution was adopted.

The balance of the day's session was taken up in making speeches about devotion to the Union; secession; the fugitive slave law; negro stealing and various other subjects.

In the House, a vote was taken on the motion to excuse Mr. Hawkins from serving on the committee of thirty-three, which resulted as follows: yeas, 95; nays, 101. So Mr. Hawkins was not excused.

Mr. Hawkins said, lest silence would be construed into consent to serve on the committee, he wished to say with all deference and good feeling to those who voted against his request, he would not serve.

Mr. Boyce asked to be excused from serving on the committee. A lengthy discussion ensued, and on taking the vote to excuse Mr. Boyce, it resulted in a tie. In the discussions in relation to excusing Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Boyce from serving on the committee, the Republicans took no part.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, also wished to be excused from serving on the committee, because of other duties, upon which another discussion arose, and subsequently Mr. Houston appealed to Mr. Morrill to withdraw his request, which he did not do, and a vote was taken and negatived.

Mr. Corwin, offered a resolution, which was adopted, authorizing the select committee to employ a clerk, at four dollars per day, and that the committee have leave to sit during the session of the House, until they shall report, or be otherwise discharged.

Mr. Sherman, from the committee on ways and means, reported the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, and a bill making appropriations for the support of the Indian department.

Mr. Sherman introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the committee on Indian affairs to inquire and report whether any superintendent of Indian affairs or Indian agents can be dispensed with, without public detriment.

Mr. Sherman presented the petition of Thaddeus Hyatt, asking relief for the people of Kansas, which was referred to the committee on Territories.

Mr. Morris made an ineffectual attempt to introduce his union-loving declaratory resolution.

Mr. Hindman wished to propose amendments to the Constitution. He was opposed to legislation for expediency. Mr. Morris objected.

Mr. Branch offered a resolution, which was

adopted, that the States be called to-morrow for bills and resolutions, and that those relative to the state of the Union, be referred to the select committee.

Dec. 12th.—In the Senate, Mr. Hunter, from the committee on finance, reported the bill authorizing treasury notes, amended by inserting \$50 instead of \$100, as the minimum amount, and with an amendment referring to the date for their expiration, and the interest allowed; and that the proceeds of the sales of the public lands are to be set apart as security for the redemption of the notes. A lengthy discussion followed. The bill was subsequently cut down to three millions, and passed.

After the bill passed, the resolutions in reference to secession were called up, Mr. Foot in the chair.

Mr. Wigfall delivered himself of a long, fiery speech, and was occasionally interrupted by Hale, Seward and others. The wildest confusion prevailed in the galleries, and threats from the chairman that the sergeant-at-arms should eject the multitude therefrom, if they continued their vociferous applaudings, seemed to have no lasting effect upon the promiscuous crowd.

In the House, sundry resolutions were presented, read and referred. These related principally to the existing state of the nation, and requiring the committee of thirty-three to make more inquiries and reports, than they will have time to consider, during the session.

Mr. Thayer, from the committee on public lands, reported a bill creating the land district of Dacotah, and providing for the admission of a delegate in Congress from that Territory. Mr. Grow opposed the bill, and mentioned that he had prepared bills for organizing various territorial governments, including Dacotah.

Mr. Cox inquired whether they would be reported with the same provisions as those of last session, prohibiting slavery.

Mr. Grow replied in the affirmative, and said the House could, if they choose, strike out the provisions.

Mr. Thayer's bill was referred to the committee of the whole, on the state of the Union.

Mr. Sherman, from the committee on ways and means, reported a deficiency appropriation bill.

Mr. Morris wished to offer a resolution, declaring devotion to the Union, and made some remarks thereon.

Mr. Ruffin called him to order, and the House adjourned.

DEDICATION OF THE THIRTEENTH WARD ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

The inhabitants of the Thirteenth Ward were assembled on New Year's day to participate in the services dedicating the fine building that has just been erected on Second South street.

The Assembly Rooms is a very fine, substantial building sixty by thirty-five feet outside, which has been raised at an expense of about \$10,000. Over the entrance is a slab with a circular inscription—"Thirteenth Ward Assembly Rooms, erected A.D. MDCCCLX."

At the entrance door there is a transparency of the All-Seeing Eye over the transom light. Each window in the building has five transparent shades with the following mottoes painted by Mr. Henry Maiben:

Front or south windows—"Virtue—Temperance."

On the east side are—"Faith—Hope—Charity—Truth."

On the west side are—"Justice—Mercy—Knowledge—Wisdom."

The crown of the arch is about twenty feet from the floor. About fifteen feet from the floor is a very fine stucco cornice and immediately underneath are two enrichments—the workmanship of Mr. Rumell. Above the cornice, over the entrance door, reaching the roof, is a fine small ornament in relief, springing out from a center shield, on which is well painted by Mr. Morris, the escutcheon of the State of Deseret—the Bee Hive with an Eagle resting over it, and the inscription in Old English characters—"Deseret."

On the north end of the Hall is a very commodious tribune or pulpit, capable of seating conveniently six or eight persons with the speaker. On the wall behind the pulpit is a large illustrated map of the Republics of North America and adjacent islands and countries. Over the cornice above is a similar scroll in relief, springing out from a shield with the All-Seeing Eye, underneath which is the inscription—"Holiness to the Lord."

Two very neat bronze chandeliers hang from the roof. The pulpit and windows are draped in crimson.

Behind the upper end of the Hall is a receiving room or vestry thirty by twenty feet. The basement story was probably at first intended for school purposes, but may be turned to some other account. In the center of the basement is a large adobe heater, nine feet in diameter and seven feet high, with adobe walls a foot thick. In the inside of the "heater" is a large stove capable of creating warmth sufficient to keep the whole building comfortable. While the smoke pipe runs to the north or back of the building, two flue pipes branch out east and west, conveying the heat underneath the floor to two registers that distribute it in the big hall.

The rock foundation is nearly three feet thick and eleven feet and a half high. The adobe walls eighteen inches thick.

The building committee was composed of Bishop E. D. Woolley, his counselors—Jeter Clinton and John W. Woolley, John H. Rumell, Wm. H. Branch and F. B. Woolley. The whole affair has been well managed by the

committee and reflects great credit on the Bishop and his assistants. The building will be a lasting honor to the acting superintendent, Mr. Rumell, to whose untiring industry much is due. We believe it is the finest building ever reared by any branch of the church, by its own exertions.

On the platform were Presidents Young and Kimball, Elders W. Woodruff and Lorenzo Snow of the Twelve, Bishop Edw. Hunter, Bishop E. D. Woolley, Jeter Clinton and John W. Woolley.

The services commenced about 12 o'clock, by the choir singing the opening hymn—"All hail! the new year!"

President Young, with a few remarks, introduced Elder Woodruff, who offered the dedicatory prayer.

The choir again sang—"Lord, in the morning thou shalt hear."

President Young delivered the first address, expressing the happiness which he experienced in meeting with the Saints on the occasion. He had thousands of things to cause him to rejoice, but did not know of one circumstance to cause him to mourn. He was satisfied with the dealings of the Lord, both with his friends and with his foes. He made some excellent remarks on education and school-rooms. Told what his design was for the erection of school buildings; exposed the crude notions of some on the manner of educating children, and the evils arising from improper places being used for school purposes, and hinted to the Bishop that the lower part of the building or the basement, which had been intended for schools, was illy adapted for that purpose, and warned mothers against sending their children there, as it was too crowded and only fit for folks of the caliber of Presidents of the United States or Congressmen—nothing better could be expected from it. The President's general remarks were on education and system in business, concluding with the expression of his anxiety to see righteousness established on the earth, and the affliction he experienced when he knew of evil among the Saints.

The choir sang—"Sound the Sweet Anthem o'er mountain and plain."

Bishop Woolley addressed the Saints of his Ward, complimenting every body on their good works—especially on the erection of the Assembly Rooms. The Bishop expressed the intention of being liberal in accommodating lecturers and the presidents of quorums, when necessary, with the use of the Rooms for public purposes.

Choir sang—"How rich is the treasure, ye servants of God."

President Young arose and wished the people the compliments of the season; after which, at his request, Elder Sproule, assisted by the choir, sang the Marseillaise Hymn.

President Kimball spoke of the comfortable condition of the Saints; but warned them against "the times" that were coming upon the world, telling the Saints that, before the judgments of the Lord would come upon the wicked in the world, the hypocrites and sinners in Zion, who brought trouble upon the Saints, would see sorrow and reap the reward of their wickedness.

The choir sang—"The downfall of Babylon."

Elder Lorenzo Snow made some spirited remarks on the advancement of the Saints, exhibiting the advantages derived from the school of experience in which they had been reared. Exhorted every person to works of righteousness, for the day was near when Israel would rise above poverty and persecution, and it was only those who did right now who could appreciate and be benefited by the blessings of the future.

Elder Woodruff followed with excellent remarks on the advantages of education, and the obligations resting upon parents, to properly instruct their children in every thing that could elevate them morally, physically and intellectually.

Elder Wm. Willis sang—"The Working Bee of Deseret."

Elder Clinton spoke of his past experience in preaching in the world. Knew what the feelings of the Saints had been before they came here, how they used to express their anxiety to get to Zion. He hoped now that they were here, they would do their best to keep the commandments of God and enjoy the fruits of their religion. The building had been erected for worship and for nothing else. They would, however, dance in it, of course they would; but if he did not believe that he could dance and possess the Spirit of the Lord, he would never dance again. He knew better, however, and could worship the Lord in the dance, as the old Prophet had said, and, from time to time, the Saints would meet therein for that purpose. With a well directed blow against the use of whisky, Elder C. concluded his remarks.

President Young took the last remarks of Elder Clinton as a foundation of an excellent address on dancing and drinking. He referred to the language of the ancient prophet that had been quoted about "the old man and virgin going forth in the dance together." He knew of no ordinance of God or commandment on dancing; but so long as the people did not sin in it, they might dance. He spoke against the wickedness of many drunkards, and showed what ruinous evil they did to themselves personally, which he thought should be sufficient warning to rise above the temptation.

The choir sang—"Hail to the Prophet."

After which Bishop Hunter dismissed the assembly with his benediction, at about half past 2 p.m.